

REMARKS

Applicant has canceled the claims 9 and 14 without prejudice. Applicant respectfully submits that these amendments to the claims are supported by the application as originally filed and do not contain any new matter. Therefore, the Office Action will be discussed in terms of the claims as amended.

The Examiner has rejected the claims 1, 9, 12 and 14 under 35 USC 103 as being obvious over Totsu in view of Hannay stating that Totsu discloses a pan head screw having the claimed features of the present invention that include branching grooves that extend in a radial direction from a central portion of a bit engaging groove so that the widths gradually expand, thus producing substantially equal intervals with a width dimension of boundary portions which are between respective adjacent branching grooves, the outer circumferential end wall surfaces of the bit engaging grooves are formed in a substantially perpendicular attitude to a specified depth from an opening edge with the opening edge of the respective outer circumferential end wall surfaces of the bit engaging groove formed as an inclined surface and the boundary portions between respective adjacent branching grooves of the bit engaging groove are formed so that the boundary portions are formed by a planar by planar side wall surfaces that intersect at obtuse angles showing left-right symmetry with respect to the respective branching grooves in the central portion of the engaging groove, but does not specifically disclose that the groove would be formed in a Y shape divided into three equal parts; Hannay teaches that the bit engaging grooves of a screw head may be made in a Y shape divided into three equal parts; and it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have modified Totsu to have engaging grooves in a Y shape as taught by Hannay.

In reply to this rejection, Applicant has carefully reviewed Totsu and respectfully submits that as to Applicant's claims 1 and 12, Applicant respectfully submits that Totsu does not include or teach stepped parts sloped downwards towards a central portion of the screw neck from a perpendicular lower edge portion, a bottom surface which is a circular conical recess or that the grooves would be in a Y shape (as admitted by the Examiner).

In addition to the above and particularly as to claim 12, Applicant respectfully submits that Totsu does not disclose, teach or suggest the following:

1. Boundary portions between the respective adjacent branching grooves of the bit engaging groove are formed so that the boundary portions are formed by planar side wall

surfaces that intersect at obtuse angles showing left-right symmetry with respect to respective branching grooves in the central portion of the bit engaging groove;

2. The vein parts are respectively formed on the tip end blade part and have end edge parts that have a right angled shape to obtuse angular shape; and

3. The protruding parts are formed to intersect and connect in a circular conical shape in a central axial part of the screwdriver bit, the protruding parts corresponding to the bottom surface of the circular conical recessed part.

In addition to Applicant's comments above concerning Totsu, Applicant respectfully submits that there is no suggestion in Totsu that one would use, desire or require grooves formed in another pattern such as the plus sign of Totsu. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Totsu does not suggest that the plus sign grooves be replaced with a Y shape.

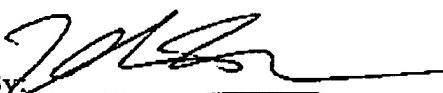
In addition, Applicant has carefully reviewed Hannay and respectfully submits that while the grooves in Hannay may be in a Y shape, the grooves are relatively simple and uncomplicated and there is no suggestion in Hannay that one would utilize stepped parts sloped downwards towards a central portion of a screw neck from a perpendicular lower edge portion or that the bottom surface would be a circular conical recess. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that there is no suggestion in Hannay that one would make the combination suggested by the Examiner.

In view of the above, therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that not only would the combination suggested by the Examiner not be suggested by one of ordinary skill in the art, but also the combination suggested by the Examiner would not be Applicant's invention. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims 1 and 12 are not obvious over Totsu in view of Hannay.

In view of the above, therefore, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered, favorably considered and the case passed to issue.

Please charge any additional costs incurred by or in order to implement this  
Amendment or required by any requests for extensions of time to QUINN EMANUEL  
DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 50-4367.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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